

San Diego DX Club Bulletin



April 2014



This is an amazing operation. Carson was newly licensed before he deployed to Marion Island. He quickly became a veteran op and controlled the pile-ups well. He discovered the magic of 10m and using only 100W and a vertical gave many of us a new one. His QSL manager, XYL Bev, was equally gracious and very efficient.

Thank you Carson and Bev!

The San Diego DX Club (SDDXC) is among the best known and most highly respected DX clubs in the United States. Since it's founding in 1946, SDDXC members have been on both sides of the pile-ups with DXpeditions and a fair share have achieved "Top of the Honor Roll" status. If you're interested in chasing DX, contesting, exchanging stories or just rubbing elbows with fellow "Big Guns" or "Little Pistols", you'll feel right at home at one of our club meetings. Join us at our next meeting. Visitors are particularly welcome!

For real time DX spotting and lively conversation on a variety of subjects, join us on 144.415 MHz.

APRIL PROGRAM

This month's presentation will be by Leo Almazan, WA6LOS, the Team Leader of the April 2015 DXpedition to the Spratlys.

APRIL MEETING NOTICE:

**JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road,
San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 278-6988**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2014

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M.

DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

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President:

Dan Severance, N6ERD

(858) 449-8526

daniel_severance@yahoo.com

Vice President:

Wild Bill Wiederhold, WB6BFG

(760) 721-2927

wb6bfg@arrl.net

Secretary/Treasurer:

Ellen Utschig, N6UWW

(760) 721-2927

elenalaloca@cox.net

Past President:

John Barcroft, K6AM

(858) 587-8061

k6am@arrl.net

Board of Directors:

John Vissat, NA6L

CQ-NA6L@hotmail.com

Ed Felter, AI6O

(619) 668-0928

ai6o@arrl.net

Bob Grimmick, N6OX

(949) 573-1070

n6ox@yahoo.com

Ladder:

John Barcroft, K6AM

k6am@arrl.net

Webmaster:

Arnie Lewin, W7BIA

Historian:

Glenn Rattmann, K6NA

(760) 749-3936

k6na@cts.com

Bulletin Editor:

Ron Stockton, N0RR

(760) 224-7139

rjstockton@cox.net

A Word from the Prez . . .

Dan Severance, N6ERD

Greetings DXers,

Great conditions the last few months – any of you who are newer DXers need to realize that it's not always like this! Back in 2006 when I became a ham we were at the bottom of the sunspot cycle so I rarely made 10M contacts unless they were local or periodically trans-equatorial ducting to south America!

Low bands are not as good now as high sunspots generally lead to more noise and absorption on the low bands, but of course there are antennas (beverages if you have lots of land, EWEs, flags, etc.) if you have a small lot which can help improve reception and avoid some of the noise. Regardless, in 6 years the low bands will improve but the high bands will be gone, so get them while the getting is good!

High sunspots ionize the atmosphere allowing the high bands to reflect back to earth rather than pass through. This sunspot cycle took forever to get here and is predicted to start declining by the second half of the year.

When a DXpedition (or any DX) comes on – of course be sure to work them at all, but then make sure to focus on 10, 12 and 15 in particular in case your next chance is during a low cycle. It won't go to nothing immediately but will get progressively worse so enjoy it now while you can!

73, Dan, N6ERD

Vice President's Report

Wild Bill, WB6BFG

Greetings to all!



Here's hoping that everyone that went to the International DX Convention had a great time! I wish to thank all of you from the club that joined in with us at the registration desk getting the packets and shirts passed out. We got it opened up early and never had any maddening lines. Next year's convention date was announced during the Sunday morning ceremonies: April 17-19, 2015 to be held at the Visalia Convention Center.

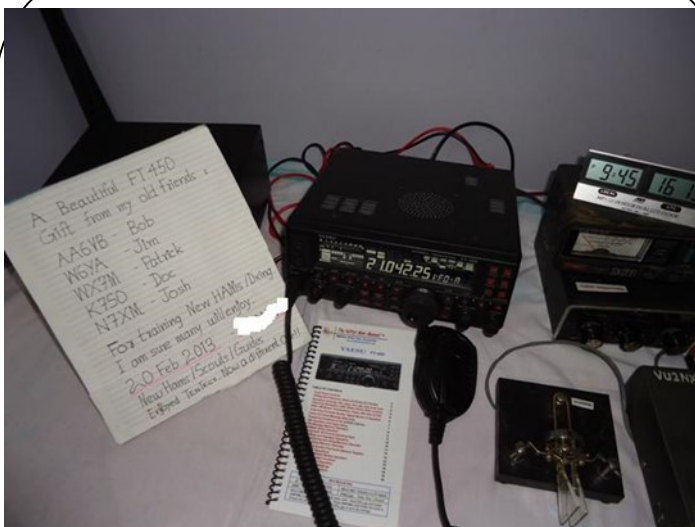
This month's meeting will once again be back at The Sizzler. I hope that everyone has seen it on the club's website and the Yahoo Group.

This month's presentation will be by Leo Almazan, WA6LOS, Team Leader of the April 2015 DXpedition to the Spratly's. The DX0P DXpedition is tentatively scheduled for April 2015. The Mabuhay DX Group formally announced the DXpedition during the IOTA forum at the International DX Convention in Visalia, CA this month.

Thanks to Arnie Shatz, N6HC, and his friend for making the trip down from Orange County to do the presentation last month! It was great to see him (them) and hear about his adventures on the recent DXpedition to Amsterdam Island, FT5ZM.

Congratulations to Paul Dorey, WN6K, for bringing "that kid with the blinking lights, running all over asking for signatures." Dylan, Paul's Grandson, was awarded the youngest attendee award of a new antenna. Dylan also got some seat time at the special event station and ran quite a number of QSO's, Way to Go Dylan!

I happened across this picture on a QRZ listing. Jim, W6YA, will obviously know who the recipient of the gift(s) is. Anyone else?



Right nice of you Jim!

I came across a website by ZS1AN, Andre, which is an interesting compilation of Amateur Radio Contesting FAQ's. Mainly for new guys or to pass along to someone just getting started. http://www.qsl.net/zs1an/contesting_faq.html

There is plenty of DX on most every day, check out the Leagues DX Bulletin here: <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive/ARLD016/2014> If you're wondering what's on the contest horizon check here <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php>

And DXpeditions here: <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

Please remember that the club's newsletter is only as good as the information Ron receives, so just take the time to submit any DX related stories, tall tales, musings of a madman or crazy lady for his consideration. Thanks Ron for all you do!

73 & 88's to the pretty ones ~

Wild Bill, WB6BFG

"To invent, you need a good imagination and a pile of junk" ~ Thomas Edison

Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Ellen, N6UWW



Secretary's Report

The March 26th meeting was conducted by Dan N6ERD at Filippi's Mira Mesa as Sizzler was *still* undergoing their long awaited remodel. **(NOTE: April meeting will be back at Sizzler on Aero Drive)**

Newcomers and visitors were introduced: N0DY and W6SQC. Old Business: Mike NA6MB reported on the Poway Antenna issue (next meeting May 6 – all encouraged to attend).

Volunteer lists were reviewed for registration table and raffle ticket sales at the Visalia International DX Convention April 4-6.

New Business: Miguel, KJ6YXI, got his DXCC certificate (Mixed and SBB) in the mail. Marko, N5ZO, has received final approval on his tower installation. Jim, W6YI, was presented with the Club's coveted "Top Gun" award, Russ, K5OA, was presented the "Big Gun" Award and Miguel, KJ6YXI, was awarded the "Rookie of the Year".

Arnie Shatz, N6HC, gave a presentation on his recent trip to Amsterdam Island as part of the FT5ZM DXpedition.

Treasurer's Report

Statement Balance 3/31/2014 \$5758.48

87 current members

Dues became delinquent 1/31/2014.

Please send checks payable to "SDDX Club Inc" (\$20 individual or \$30 family) to

San Diego DX Club
c/o Ellen Utschig N6UWW
2104 Poplar Rd
Oceanside, CA 92058-2332

Ellen, N6UWW

Editor's Ramblings

Thanks to John (K6AM), Jim (K6JRF), Leo (WA6LOS), Ed (AI6O), Wayne (NN6R), Bob (N6TV), Charlie (NN3V), Jim (W6YA), and Jim (W6YI), for providing input this month.

I was very excited about attending the April meeting to announce that after 30 years of intense DXing on 10m, I had finally worked Pakistan. I was going to tell you how difficult it is, even from CO with an 8-element mono-band yagi, because long path never seems to reach north of New Delhi and short path never seems to stretch south of Kyrgyzstan (EX), but after seeing the "How's DX" reports for this month, I'll just keep quiet. Looks like AP on 10m is just routine DX for the 'Big Guns' of the SDDXC. In any event, it was exciting to hear and work AP2TN very early on 10m because he is only running 100W to a vertical. Definitely one of those QSOs that I will never forget.

We are four weeks beyond equinox so the evening openings over the north pole into central Asia on 10m are history, but check the band in the late afternoon for the openings to west Africa. I recently worked 5T0JL, 6W1SR, 9L1A, D44CF and ZS6WN 2 to 3 hours before sunset.

Finally, every morning and every weekend for sure, I try to log one or more Europeans on 10m. You never know what log entry will be your last Eu contact for the next 5 – 6 years, while you wait for the sun spots to return and nudge the solar flux well above 74 once again.

RON, NORR

CW is not just a mode, it is a lifestyle

The SDDXC Top Ten

By John, K6AM

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 80 METERS

3/13	3/14	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	5.	K6XT	40	295	297	301	+19
2.	2.	W6YA	40	?	?	301	-
3.	4.	K6NA	40	?	?	292	-
4.	6.	W6YI	40	276	280	285	+3
5.	7.	K6AM	40	241	244	249	+1
6.	8.	N7CW	40	227	227	247	+3
7.	9.	N6CW	40	?	211	236	-
8.	10.	K0XB	37	174	176	188	+5
9.	-	K6ZH	32	156	159	163	NEW
10.	-	AD6ZJ	33	141	142	161	NEW

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 20 METERS

3/13	3/14	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	W6YA	40	340	380	380	-
2.	2.	N6CW	40	?	360	364	-
3.	4.	W6YI	40	337	354	355	+2
4.	5.	K6AM	40	339	348	348	-
5.	6.	K9RHY	40	336	347	347	-
6.	7.	W6YOO	40	337	345	345	-
7.	-	K6XT	40	331	344	345	NEW
8.	8.	K0XB	40	333	342	343	+1
9.	9	K5OA	40	321	339	341	+5
10.	10.	K6ZH	40	329	338	341	+5

(Note: This should have been published in the March issue, but I screwed up- Ed.)

On 80 meters, Art, K6XT comes from out of nowhere to jump 5 slots to take over the first place spot held by N6ND (SK) in a tie with Jim, W6YA. In case of a tie, we then look at the CFM column for the highest totals there. Several other players check in with some nice jumps as well.

As those new entities finally got into the reports, we see a couple of small jumps on 20, but the leader board remains cast in stone. We seal the records for Rick, N6ND with a final total of 301 on 80 and 354 on 20.

Each month, we will publish top ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, 15 meters, and the WARC bands. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

2013 ARRL DX SSB CONTEST

SDDXC RESULTS

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	FINISH
MS HP	PJ2T (K6AM, W0CG, K8LEE, DL5AXX)	8,271,822	8,056	346	#1 World
	NX6T (N6KI, N6CY, N6ERD, NN6X, N6EEG, K6KAL, AF6WF, K6GO, NA6MB, ops)	1,140,192	1,304	296	#1 W6/W7, #1 SW Div
SO HP	W6YI	1,565,748	1,929	276	#1 W6/W7, #1 SW Div
SOSB-15	ZF2AH (W6VNR)	631,260	3,527	60	#2 World
SO-A HP	KY6LA	63,189	183	119	
	AF6WF	61,983	214	97	

The SDDXC Top Ten

By John, K6AM

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 30 METERS

4/13	4/14	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	W6YA	40	?	?	337	+6
2.	2.	K6AM	40	320	326	328	+1
3.	6.	K6XT	40	279	282	315	+53
4.	4.	N7CW	40	289	289	311	+11
5.	7.	W6YI	39	239	241	285	+23
6.	5.	N6CW	37	?	215	272	-
7.	8.	K6ZH	39	241	246	271	+15
8.	9.	K0XB	40	237	239	252	+9
9.	-.	WN6K	37	173	175	240	NEW
10.	10.	W6YOO	33	225	227	227	-

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 15 METERS

4/13	4/14	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	2.	K6AM	40	335	344	345	+2
2.	4.	W6YI	40	324	332	338	+6
3.	3.	N6CW	40	?	331	338	-
4.	9	K6XT	40	303	312	329	+29
5.	5.	N7CW	40	319	319	327	+5
6.	6.	K0XB	40	314	321	325	+4
7.	7.	W6YOO	40	313	318	318	-
8.	8	K6ZH	40	291	297	315	+10
9.	-.	WN6K	40	268	276	308	NEW
10.	-.	WB6BFG	40	261	262	275	NEW

Quite a few of you sent a report this year with some nice gains across the board with Art, K6XT having the biggest gains. 15 meters continues to be productive with some good openings worldwide as we ride the wave of what appears to be a second hump to cycle 24. We seal the records for Rick, N6ND (SK) with a final total of 327 on 30 and first place with 347 on 15.

Each month, we will publish top ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, the other WARC bands, 160 and RTTY. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

SDDXC RESULTS

2013 ARRL SWEEPSTAKES CW CONTEST

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	
MS - HP	NX6T (K6AM, N6KI, N6AN, N0DY, N6CY, WA2OOB, ops)	227,254	1,369	83	#1 SW DIV #2 US/VE
SO - LP	WN6K	133,488	824	81	#5 SW DIV
SO - LP-U	K6ZH	85,158	513	83	#3 SW DIV
SO - U	N6NC	18,204	111	82	



How's DX?

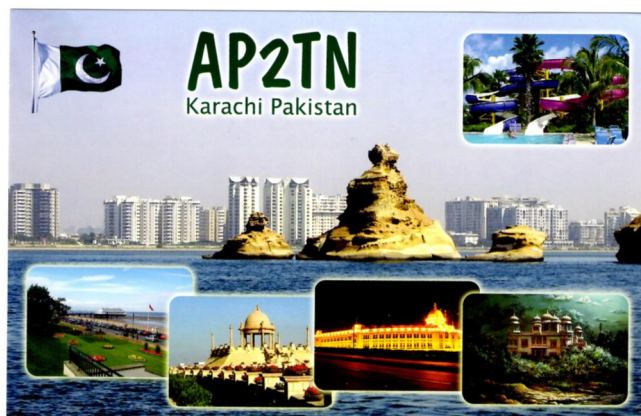
This page consists of historical data so members can share information or brag about their accomplishments. For real time info, monitor the club 2m spotting frequency, 144.415 MHz. For future DX info subscribe to the ARRL weekly DX bulletin and/or W3UR's newsletter.

DX worked by SDDXC members during late March and early April

Station	Band	Date	Time	By	Station	Band	Date	Time	By
3B9FR	15 CW	1-Apr	0254	NN6R	FR5ZL	30 CW	2-Apr	1325	W6YA
3B9FR	17 CW	21-Mar	1454	W6YA	HV0A	15 CW	14-Apr	1500	NN6R
4J0SFR	12 CW	3-Apr	1445	NN6R	J28NC	10 CW	1-APR	1506	NN6R
4K6PO	15 SSB	1-APR	1428	NN6R	JY9FC	12 CW	16-Apr	1523	NN6R
4S7DFG	30 CW	21-Mar	0142	W6YI	OA1F	20	20-Apr	0241	AI6O
4Z4UR	15 SSB	1-Apr	0259	NN6R	OD5NJ	12 CW	22-Mar	1506	W6YI
5H2DK	10 SSB	23-Mar	1915	W6YA	T6DD	12 CW	26-Mar	1542	W6YI
5H3MB	12 CW	20-Mar	1545	W6YI	T6DD	12 CW	30-Mar	1506	W6YA
5J0T	20	20-Apr	0234	AI6O	T6DD	15 CW	22-Mar	0443	W6YA
5T0JL	10 CW	28-Mar	2353	W6YA	T6T	17 CW	24-Mar	0351	W6YA
6W1SR	10 CW	18-Apr	2104	N0RR	TR8CA	10 CW	18-Apr	1415	W6YA
9K2WA	10 SSB	22-Mar	1501	W6YI	TX6G	10-80 CW/SSB	21-Mar	Varied	W6YI
9N7AA	12 CW	31-Mar	0224	W6YA	TZ6BB	20 CW	26-Mar	0309	W6YA
A41PG	15 SSB	9-Apr	1445	NN6R	UN7GP	10 CW	21-Mar	0246	N0RR
A71AM	12 SSB	24-Mar	1425	W6YI	UN7GQ	10 CW	27-Mar	0238	N0RR
A91WMD	15 SSB	23-Mar	1438	W6YI	UP0KEDR	17 CW	25-Mar	1411	W6YI
AP2TN	10 CW	31-Mar	1437	N0RR	VK9MT	10-80 CW/SSB	31-Mar	varied	W6YI
AP2TN	10 CW	2-Apr	1418	W6YA	VU2BGS	10 CW	20-Mar	0257	N0RR
AP2TN	10 CW	2-Apr	1432	W6YI	VU2BGS	10 CW	20-Mar	0306	W6YA
AP2TN	10 CW	2-APR	1454	NN6R	VU2PAI	10 CW	29-Mar	0202	N0RR
CE0Y/UA4WHX	20	16-Apr	0254	AI6O	VU2RAK	10 SSB	23-Mar	1447	W6YA
CE2AWW	6	15-Apr	2348	AI6O	VU3ARP	10 CW	26-Mar	1527	W6YI
CE2AWW	6 CW	15-Apr	0124	W6YI	VU4K	10 SSB	26-Mar	0225	W6YA
CE3SX	6	16-Apr	0001	AI6O	VU4K	12 SSB	29-Mar	1510	W6YA
D44CF	10 CW	28-Mar	0216	N0RR	VU4K	15 SSB	24-Mar	0321	W6YA
DU1IST	160 CW	22-Mar	1321	W6YA	XV7BM	160 CW	18-Mar	1319	W6YI
E51AND	10	19-Apr	?	AI6O	XZ1Z	10 CW	18-Mar	0225	N0RR
EY8MM	17 CW	6-Apr	1519	NN6R	ZS8Z	20 SSB	28-Mar	1439	W6YA

QSLs Received Recently

Station	Via	Station	Via
9L1A	9A2AA	UN8PY	DL8KAC
AP2TN	DJ9ZB	VK9X/K7CO	OQRS
EV1R	Direct	VU2CDP	Direct
JT1E	Direct	YB9Y	YB1GJS
JW2US	LA2US	ZA1G	Direct
UN3M	EA7FTR	ZS8C	Direct



Hi, I am Leo (WA6LOS), the Team Leader of the April 2015 DXpedition to the Spratlys. I have been a ham since I was 14 years old and first licensed as WN6YJC. I took my General class exam a week after my Novice license expired, hence the WA6LOS callsign.

I like contesting and DXing and have operated in many countries such as the Philippines, Germany, Wake Island, Japan, and Kuwait. I have both the DXCC and WAZ certificates. I am also into QRP and homebrewing. I have just finished a two tube CW transmitter to go with my 3-tube superhet-regen receiver. I will take both rigs to the Philippines this coming May and see how many countries I can work with 15 watts of power.

I just retired from SPAWAR where I worked for almost 30 years as an electronics engineer and a project manager. I am also a retired naval reservist after spending 8 years in active duty, the Panama invasion, first Gulf war and the war in Iraq. My wife and I will be retiring part time in the Philippines and here in San Diego where we have a son and a daughter and two grandkids.

I belong to the Mabuhay DX Group, a group of Filipino-Americans, Filipino-Canadians and Filipino hams and avid DXers and testers. The word Mabuhay is a Filipino greeting and in the Filipino language means 'long live.' The Group was started in 1996 and our first DX contest participation was the 1996 CQ WW Contest and it was a combined expedition and contesting atop Mt Frazier near Los Angeles where we were literally snowed in by two-foot of snow during the first night of the contest!



The Group has then participated in other DX contests here in the States and in the Philippines. The Spratlys DXpedition will be our first DXpedition and came about after a formal invitation by Kalayaan Island Group town Mayor of Pag Asa, one of the biggest island in the Spratlys.

The Philippine Amateur Radio Association, the umbrella organization of hams in the country, also sent us a formal invite since there has not been any ham activity in the Philippine side of the Spratlys since 2007. Last month we also received our license to operate by the Philippine National Communication Commission as DX0P.



The DX0P DXpedition is tentatively scheduled for April 2015. The Mabuhay DX Group formally announced the DXpedition during the IOTA forum at the International DX Convention in Visalia, CA this month. We have solicited sponsorships from Elecraft, DX Engineering, Step-IR, Heil and MFJ. We plan to request funding also from the Northern California DX Foundation and logistic support from both the Philippine Air Force and Navy who are supportive and have approved our plans. We look forward to presenting a short brief of the DXpedition to you the members of the San Diego DX Club. See you all soon. 73.



Taking home the Visalia convention's "Youngest Ham" prize, Dylan KK6IFZ was all smiles as Dan N6ERD handed him the boxes. (Photo by N6TV)



Did you work him?

The New Sizzler – by K6AM

I had the opportunity to stop by the Sizzler for their grand re-opening. From the outside everything looks about the same, but once you get inside, it takes a bit of re-orientation. The whole interior has had a facelift, with all new furniture and fixtures. Our meeting room is the same size but now has A/C and lighting controls on the wall, a big screen TV and a picture window to the parking lot.

The ordering procedure is a bit different. You place your order and pay for it as before and then they give you a little electronic locator beacon that you take to your table. No more trays.

The drink glasses and salad plates are now out in the food area and you serve yourself assuming you have paid for those items. The server brings your entrée to the table after zeroing in on your beacon.

I had the cheeseburger. It was different than before but certainly just as tasty. Many of the other menu items have been updated, and we are looking forward to seeing if the overall food quality has been upgraded as well, not that it was that bad before.

The dinner staff has gone from 4 up to 7, so service should be fast and efficient. However, all of the upgrades must have cost a fortune. So be prepared for a small sticker shock. Bring an extra two to three bucks to cover the typical order.

Hints and Kinks from Jim Forgione, K6JRF

1) Many years ago I remember auto-bias ckts were tried, most ended in failure b/c the distortion produced was really bad. The attached PDF shows one such ckt that many of us played with and ultimately rejected. Many years later, "Spice" was made useable on a home computer so this and other ckts went under the analysis' knife. Suffice to say, no wonder it didn't work! After some mods, it works perfectly. The attached PDF details that saga.

Here's a direct link to the PDF from my web pages: http://www.k6jrf.com/Electronic%20Bias%20Ckts_3-7-14.pdf

2) Bought a new garage door opener (gdo) and it responded better to RF than the remote control! The details of the 'fixes' are here; http://www.k6jrf.com/FT2k_GDO_Fix.html



Poway Amateur Radio Antenna Ordinance

Yes. It is time to remind all again!

As of now, the Poway City Council will hold another meeting to consider this subject.

As requested last month, Poway hams are asking your cooperation and presence at the City Council meeting. There continues to be excellent evidence that the opposition will be present in numbers.

There is known to be a "rallying" by the Real Estate developers to appear in large numbers, opposing our request for a relaxation of the Poway antenna height rules. While this opposition block has appeared to diminish in recent past, they have held unusual power over the elected officials on past controversial issues.

Poway hams know that the council members in favor of the relaxation are inclined to continue their support. But they are, after all, politicians. They "count noses" to figure out voting opportunities. And in this coming election, the Mayor's position is being contested!

So **Please come out an support Poway hams with your presence.**

Poway hams are providing hot dogs and refreshments to all hams who join the effort. Meet in the City Hall parking lot at 6:00 PM, Tuesday, May 6th. Address is 13325 Civic Center Drive, Poway, CA. 92064

Everyone will be given a Poway Amateur Radio Society badge to wear into the meeting, which will start at 7:00 PM.

73 de Charlie
NN3V